

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, 22, 24, 28, 35, 38, 40, 41, 43, 46, 48 and 49 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 24 and 28 are in independent form. Claims 9, 10, 34, 36, 37, 44 and 45 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 8, 21, 24, 28, 35, 40, 43 and 48 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. The amendments are supported by at least the description of the eighth embodiment in the specification. The Abstract has been amended to correspond to the claim amendments.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jennifer A. Reda/
Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200